

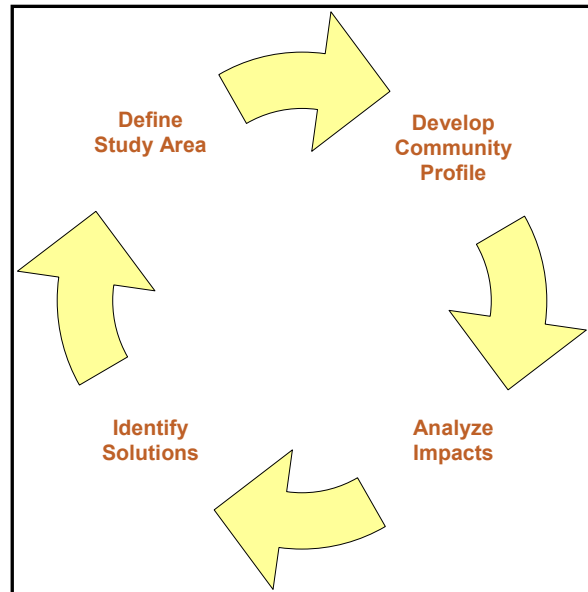
1. QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT COMMUNITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

WHAT IS CIA?

Community Impact Assessment (CIA) complements and enhances the current practice of analyzing the potential impacts that transportation projects may have on the natural environment (i.e., archaeological, wildlife, vegetative, historic). CIA does this by increasing awareness of the effects of transportation actions on the environments of community and culture, and quality of life. It emphasizes that community impacts deserve serious attention in project planning and development. CIA is a six step process (Project Area Definition, Community Profile, Impact Analysis, Solution Identification, Public Involvement, and Documentation) that effectively identifies, documents, and analyzes community characteristics, determines the potential impacts of transportation projects upon them, and results in documented mitigation, avoidance, minimization, or enhancements that are used in the planning and design of transportation projects

Process:

The CIA process is iterative. Most transportation and design processes proceed in discrete steps: Project Scoping which determines the study area, Alternatives Development, Alternatives Analysis, and Final Recommendation. A study of the impacts of a project on the community is usually accomplished during the Scoping and Alternatives Analysis stages. The CIA process anticipates that initial decisions, such as determination of the study area boundaries or identification of impacts, may be revisited throughout the CIA process.



The CIA process is iterative. Findings in one step may result in revising or repeating other steps.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

Public participation is key to the success of CIA. The CIA public participation process is proactive because it encourages the use of public involvement techniques that are tailored to the communities within the project area, maximizes participation in the

development of alternatives, identifies and analyzes impacts, and determines if avoidance, mitigation, enhancement, or minimization are appropriate to address project impacts. The CIA public participation process complements the standard NEPA process.



Public Involvement can inform stakeholders about a project, solicit ideas and comments, result in alternatives development and enhance alternatives analysis. It takes many forms, including but not limited to, charrettes, open houses, formal presentations, information meetings with stakeholders, newsletters, web pages, direct mailings, newspaper coverage and editorials, phone trees.

How WILL CIA BENEFIT ME?

The types of projects and the environments in which we are building them are changing throughout the Southwest. Every project will benefit from the implementation of CIA. For example:

<i>If You Are A(n):</i>	<i>How CIA Will Benefit You</i>
District Engineer	Instead of 'outsiders' telling a community what is best for it, the CIA process will help to ensure that the community is involved in the identification of potential project impacts, alternatives, analysis, and solutions.
Engineering Project Manager	Through CIA, the community is involved in the development of solutions to the potential impacts of a project. These solutions will help to ensure that when the project is designed the community will, at a minimum, be aware of the project and will have participated to ensure its impacts are as beneficial as possible.
Transportation Planner	As transportation projects are developed, potential impacts that may need to be addressed through alternatives analysis and design can be identified early on. Between the project identification and planning and design phases, steps can be taken to ensure that additional activities that could create additional impacts are avoided, and early mitigation techniques (such as preventing development in a transportation corridor) can be implemented.
EEO Civil Rights Compliance Officer	CIA is a tool that helps to ensure that the Title VI analyses are thorough and well conducted. Through CIA, your entity can be sure it is more protected against lawsuits and Title VI claims. CIA implements Title VI, Exec. Order 12898 on Environmental Justice, and Proposed Department of Transportation Order of Environmental Justice.
Environmental Planner	The process implements ISTEA, NEPA, CRF 771 (environmental impact and related procedures) 1987, the Farmland Protection Act (7 CRF 658), and FHWA Environmental Policy Statements (1990 and 1987).
Right of Way Agent	Potential right of way and acquisition concerns and impacts are identified early in the process and solutions to acquisition impacts may be developed, helping to speed the acquisition process and prevent additional actions (such as the approval of new development, and access changes that may impact identified properties) that may make right of way acquisition more difficult. This process implements the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act 1970 (The Uniform Act) as amended in 1987.
Public Information Officer	The CIA process includes identification of community resources and communication techniques and networks that can be used in ongoing efforts to provide information about the project.

WHAT KIND OF PROJECTS WOULD REQUIRE/USE CIA?

- Corridor projects
- MIS
- EA/EIS
- STIP and TIP planning processes
- Planning and Design projects where there are complex impacts.